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D E S C R I P T I O N

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M A N C H E S T E R, &c.

THE large and populous town of *Manchester*, has now excited the attention and curiosity of strangers, on account of its extensive trade, and the rapid increase of its buildings, with the enlargement of its streets; being also the first theatre whereon the indefatigable *Gilbert* and ingenious *Brindley* exhibited their amazing talents for the establishment of Canals and subterraneous Navigations, under the auspices of that friend to the poor, and patron of mechanic arts, the most noble Duke of *Bridgwater*; on which account, most of the nobility and gentry in *Britain* have visited this Part of *Lancashire*: For which reason a Native of *Manchester* undertakes,

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dertakes, in the following narrative, to give an account of its former and present extent, its buildings and public edifices; the origin, progress, and present state of its trade; with such other interesting matters as may furnish a kind of Vade-mecum for strangers, by giving a concise view of the subject in general; intending to be more particular on the course of trade and modern improvements, but less diffusive on the antiquities of his native town.

The ingenious Mr. *Whittaker* has so copiously treated of this last subject, that there is the less occasion to enlarge upon it here. We shall only observe, that there was formerly a Roman Station at *Knott-Mill*, where the foundations of a wall are traced in the inclosure of *Castle-Field*, adjoining to which are wharfs for the canal, near the confluence of the *Medlock* and the *Irwell*; the former of which is taken into the canal, and the waste water discharged over a curious weir, which was much admired at the first construction, but the mud which has been deposited by floods has greatly disfigured it, although the
work

work seems thereby to have acquired more stability.

The *Irwell* had been rendered navigable for barges by locks, a considerable time before the canal was made, and the Proprietors of this navigation refused an entrance into it for the Duke's coal from *Worsley* brook, unless he would pay the whole tonnage appointed by their act, notwithstanding coals at *Manchester* were double the price which they bear at present, and would probably have been trebled by this time, but for the spirit of enterprise inherent to the noble Duke, his princely fortune, with the capacity, activity, and integrity of those whom he trusted and employed.

As a proof of this assertion, we shall state to our readers the manner in which *Manchester* was supplied with coals at that time and since. Before coals were brought hither by water, they were at double the present price, owing to a badness of the roads by frequent carting; and on some roads no coals could be brought but in sacks upon horses: add to this, there was a combination amongst the getters of coals, not to be broken by any

force of law or reason. Their custom was to get coals and keep them in the pit, while they went up and idled away their time, or were drinking at the ale-house, till their demand was complied with of a gratuity, which they levied as a tax on the carters who were there waiting for coals, to the great loss of their time, and ruin of their teams: and when this exaction was complied with they went down, getting more coals, which they kept in reserve, and sent up the other, as their demands were complied with.

It was scarce to be imagined how this combination among the colliers could be broken; for if more getters had been procured from distant works, they were likely to be engaged by their fellows in the same practices, being generally given to drink, and of the same brutal disposition; but on an extension of his Grace's plan by crossing the river *Irwell*, and making a subterranean to drain his works, and bring down the coals in boats on the same level with his canal, all that were able and willing had employment and instruction, and no want of colliers has been experienced since, though the collieries nearest

Manchester

Manchester in *Newton-lane* were set to work about that time, then first drained by a steam engine, and scarcely worth getting before.

The consequent advantage to *Manchester* in this single article of coals, and the low tonnage on his Grace's canal, will be more apparent to strangers, when we take a view of those limits to which the town was confined formerly, compared with its present extent; the former and present state of its trade, with the improvements yet to be expected by the ingenuity of its mechanics; the facility of constructing machines to shorten labour, and the large capitals employed in the trade of this town and neighbourhood.

We shall observe the order above laid down, in the further prosecution of this subject, and begin with a perambulation of the town from *Castle-Field* and the canal of which we have been speaking, as these are the first objects which attract the notice of strangers and antiquarians, who may accompany us from the gate which leads into *Castle-Field* across the high road, where there was formerly a foot-path over the fields to the head of *Tib-lane*, now called *Booth's-street*. This foot-

foot-path afforded an agreeable walk and pleasant prospect to the people of this neighbourhood, but that privilege was lost through the selfishness of some tenants of the fields, who made up the stiles, and no person of weight opposing them, the walk was given up, though of long standing, and carried through land belonging to different owners.

In the prosecution of this walk we crossed the *Tib* near the bowling-green, where it falls into the *Medlock*. This brook or ditch (for it may be rather so termed) is so narrow and shallow here, that it was then, and is now passable at all times, but in rainy seasons, without the aid of a plank or stepping-stones; which may cause strangers to wonder, why our learned Antiquarian has distinguished it with the name of the *river Tib*. Perhaps its consequence as a boundary or drain, may have procured it this appellation in old writings; and although in the farther prosecution of this walk to the head of *Tib-lane*, we find it is a mere ditch, except in heavy rains, we shall discover in farther tracing its course, that it was once of more importance than is now generally supposed.

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This part of the town about *Tib-lane*, was formerly taken up by fustian dyers crofts, for the convenience of water issuing from the springs which served the conduit, and from that rising ground on the left hand to *Deansgate*, called the *Mount*. Pits were made to each dye-house for the reception of this water, which being generally much below the surface of the land, was raised in pump trees by the *Persian* wheel, a machine which was not thought a novelty here many years since: but these springs failing, and business increasing, the generality of dyers have been induced to settle on the banks of rivers, where they could have the advantage of good springs and the river to wash in.

From the bottom of *Tib-lane*, in a line with the top of *King-street* to the Dissenters chapel, the buildings have increased, in about fifty years, to the west boundary of the *Tib*, taking in the whole area of Land to *Market-street-lane*, except *Brown's* hall, and a house, with dye-houses, since demolished for new erections, and a corner of *Pool-fold* or Court, where the new market has lately been made.

Tracing the course of the *Tib*, from the
head

head of *Tib-lane* to *Market-street-lane*, there are some cottages on the waste now demolishing, and the land planing into streets, where the new erections towards the Infirmary will no doubt add to the beauty and elegance of this airy part of the town. The *Tib* is now culverting of a sufficient capacity and depth to drain the area in contemplation, to be built upon and receive the waste water from the reservoirs which supply the town with water by pipes; and this work will carry underground the ditch which in dry seasons was a nuisance, and in heavy rains has sometimes overflowed the high road to *Stockport* a little below the Infirmary.

The field whereon the Infirmary and its baths are erected, was conveyed to the use of that charity, at the low rent it then took as a close, and the centre building raised by subscriptions, which are continued for the support of the sick. These have accumulated by the aid of several benefactions and legacies, so as to erect the additional part above for the reception of lunatics, and the baths, which are furnished with the necessary apparatus of warm and cold baths, dry and moist.

moist, vaporous and sweating rooms and floves, &c. We shall not enlarge upon this subject, but refer our readers to the yearly Reports of this charity, for the state of its funds.

Where the *Tib* crosses the high road below the Infirmary, was the old boundary of the town that way, consisting of some houses now rebuilt, on the right hand to the entering into *High-street*, where the space widens from the Meal-market. Here there was formerly a pond called the Horse-pool, extending from the entrance of *High-street* to the house late Mr. *Dickenson's*, where the Pretender took up his quarters when in town; whence, it may be conjectured, the opening, of which it makes one side, was called Palace-street. There was a house and stable to the front, near the entrance to the *Higher Swan* stables, then the *Saracen's-head*, with a croft behind, extending to the higher bars in *Marsden-square*, which were let at the rent of five pounds per annum, and purchased according to that value, the land being first converted into a brick-croft, and then sold for building upon, since which time the
buildings

buildings have extended all over *High-street*, *Nichol's-croft*, and most of Sir *Ashton Lever's* fields opposite the Infirmary.

At the end of *Lever's-Row*, where the *Tib* crosses the high road below the Infirmary, there was formerly a foot-path communicating with the roads to *Ashton* and *Oldham*, where the *Tib* was culvered over, and the old communication forms an irregular street. The cellars hereabout have been sometimes overflowed by the weight of water coming this way, which has damaged or blown up the culver: but the communication between those reservoirs at the bottom of *Newton-lane*, and that opposite the Infirmary by the *Tib* was cut off, and another opened down *Oldham-street*, from the new Cross, which terminates in that upright jettee opposite the front of the Infirmary; so that the water is not contaminated by the drains laid into it, nothing escaping this way but the waste water, when the principal reservoirs overflow in times of rain.

Before these reservoirs were made to serve the town with water, that body of water which occasionally swells the *Tib*, had its
course

course down *Shude-hill*, through *Withy-grove* and the *Hanging-ditch*, receiving the soil and foul water of the town, which stagnated there, whence it passed under the *Hanging-bridge* along the south boundary of the collegiate church-yard into the *Irwell*. The bridge is yet in being, and houses are built on the old channel. Whether drains were made, and the water above-mentioned turned over *Lever's* fields, to free the town from such a nuisance before the reservoirs were made, or that contrivance took place on constructing them, we cannot determine; but certain it is, that the water on that side *Newton-lane* running down an easy descent for a good part of a mile, is intercepted by a bank, and turned into the reservoirs, together with that forced up by an engine near *Ancoats*, and nothing escapes but the waste water, by the conveyance above traced.

These reservoirs communicate one with another to the head of *Shude-hill* and *Millers-lane*, from which names it may be conjectured that there was a mill formerly here, when the water came this way. The town has extend-

ed little on this quarter, and that chiefly on the right hand coming up *Shude-hill*.

From the reservoirs right forward is *Millers-lane*, which communicates with *Long-milngate* and the road to *Rochdale*: on the left hand at the descent to *Millers-lane*, is a range of building which was long unfinished, till some families took possession, and have continued it as in a species of alms-houses, though the materials and first erection are said to be yet unaccounted for. This building was reared and covered as one side of an intended quadrangle, wherein it was proposed to confine the poor, and set them to work upon divers branches of manufactory, with a power to punish them if idle or insolent, under an act of Parliament which was intended to erect the town into a borough, and commit the government of it to a certain number of the principal inhabitants, to be named in the act, one third of whom were to be reputed High Church-men, another third moderate in their principles, and another third Dissenters.

All parties at first came eagerly into the scheme, and this building was erected as a beginning.

beginning, none doubting of the act in contemplation to be procured, as it was countenanced by the Ministry at that time, in order to throw the government of the town into the hands of their friends. Though this design was very palpable from the first, yet a fondness for novelty and power, with the plausible view of uniting all parties, had made the high party as sanguine in pursuit of the plan as might be imagined, till one of them, who saw deeper into it than the rest, observed, that they were giving the command of the town out of their own hands to the low party, as in every contest for power, the Dissenters and reputed moderate men would divide against the high party. This observation at once opened the eyes of that party, and a counterpetition was procured with all dispatch against the act, which prevented the scheme; and the high party had a meeting, which was continued yearly in a grand cavalcade to *Chorlton*, for the perpetuation of their triumph; but this is now discontinued. The building being erected upon land belonging to the poor, was long unfinished, as no body would engage for the payment. Those almshouses

houses below, on the same side of *Millers-lane*, have a Latin inscription of the founders names, and date of their foundation. On the right hand opposite is a firm built and capital engine-house, in which the floor beams are all made to spring against their own length and the incumbent weight, by first sawing strong deal balks through the middle, and letting in oak spars to spurn at obtuse angles upward, the divided balks being then screwed together with iron pins, so as to resist the pressure above. Here it is that Mr. *Arkwright's* machines are setting to work by a steam engine, for carding and spinning of cotton.

Following *Millers-lane*, and turning on the right hand down the *Long-milngate*, we find this part of the town bounded by the *Irk*, over which *Scotland* bridge leads to *Rochdale* and *Bury*, &c. Some houses have been new erected on the rising ground beyond the bridge by the road side, which was much steeper than at present till it was lowered, rather injudiciously upon the whole, at an expence too great for the highway-lay, as it then stood, till the expedient was hit upon of
summoning

summoning all housekeepers to statute duty by the acts then in force, and accept of money in commutation; which not only cleared off that arrear, but enabled the managers to make other improvements on the avenues leading into the town; and this was some time before the laws were in force for making this commutation general. It may be supposed that the improvements here pointed out to the nobility and gentry, who visited the canal in great numbers, first gave the hint for the framing of this act of Parliament. Certain it is, that the iron palisadoes round the reservoir at the Infirmary, and the foot-path along it, (both were too low at first, and therefore raised at a great expence) with the curbed paths of strong flag in several streets, which are increasing every year, besides the improved state of several avenues round the town, are in consequence of the fund arising from this commutation. But to return from this digression.

Proceeding in our perambulation of the town, on the left hand at the bottom of *Long-milngate*, over the wooden bridge cross the *Irk*, at the highest of the three mills, and

continuing our rout towards *Hunts-bank*, we find the town bounded, as formerly, by this river. On the opposite bank, near the bridge at the lowest mill, is the Free School, for the support of which these mills have been appropriated by bishop *Oldham* of *Exeter*. The lord of this manor formerly attempted to grind malt in opposition to these mills, but was sued and cast by the Feoffees. Some hardships were then experienced by the detention and over-tolling of malt, upon which an act was applied for and obtained, securing the grist to the Feoffees, and substituting for the toll one shilling per load of twenty-four pecks, with a power to withdraw the malt, if not ground in twenty-four hours; which has made the inhabitants, whether of public or private houses, easy on that account, and secures for the schools the whole grist of malt. To the grinding of this the middlemost mill is appropriated, the highest is let for a corn mill, and the lowest for a frize and fulling mill; to which is annexed a snuff manufactory.

With the income of these mills the Feoffees are enabled to allow genteel salaries to
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the masters and assistant ushers of the schools, which they have lately rebuilt; and such is the reputation learning acquired at this school, that to have gone through its discipline for any tolerable standing, is thought a sufficient character at the universities. There are some exhibitions allowed with scholars from this school at first, more or less according to the state of its funds; afterwards those of a certain description at *Brasen-nose* college, *Oxford*, may enjoy *Hulme's* exhibition till they are farther advanced in their studies.

The Hospital for blue-coat boys, which adjoins to the School, was formerly the residence of the Warden and Fellows of the collegiate church, and retains its old name of the College, being purchased and applied to the uses directed by the will of *Humphrey Chetham*, Esq; upwards of an hundred years since, for the maintenance of 40 poor boys, and their instruction in learning, till they are fourteen years of age, when they are furnished with cloaths, and a premium to bind them out apprentice, while others are chosen in their room; the number to be increased as the

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the fund accumulates, and they are now augmented to eighty.

He appropriated another fund for the use of a library, which is well furnished with books. These were formerly chained, and the public could have free admission to them at stated hours when the library was open, observing those rules of behaviour in Latin, which are yet at the door. But the books are now unchained, and enclosed in elegant cases, or classed under a proper order, and numbered, so as to be easily found on a reference to the catalogues. The resort of strangers to view the Hospital and the Library, which contains some curiosities, is great, and sometimes interrupts students; but this inconvenience can weigh little against the exhibition of such a noble collection, to gratify the curiosity of strangers, and perpetuate a memorial of the Founder's charity.

Adjoining to this Hospital is the House of Correction, which was lately rebuilt by order of the Justices, whose names are at the front Door, with that of the Governor under whose direction it was rebuilt, at the charge of *Salford Hundred*. The upper part of brick, interlaid

terlaid with oak spars, and hence very secure. The lower consists of cells cut in the rock, and aired by funnels communicating with the atmosphere. To these there is an iron gate of a singular contrivance, to secure prisoners, upon locking up, from any attempts upon the Governor or his assistants. On the back way to the prison, next the College, a dungeon has been made, upon the demolition of that heretofore upon the bridge when it was widened on that side, having been widened on the other some time before. The Constables, who are head magistrates in this town, being then without a prison to confine offenders till they were examined, have here lower cells, very strong, with an upper prison. A guard-house over all for soldiers, adds to the security of both these prisons and the House of Correction, and does honour to the contrivers, as strength and usefulness are united, and nothing expended upon ostentation.

Opposite the front door of the House of Correction, at the confluence of the Irk with the river *Irwell*, the town is bounded as formerly, up to the bridge which communicates between *Manchester* and *Salford*; the *Irwell*,
as

as it runs to the bridge, passing the west end of the collegiate church.

This church is thought a fine gothic structure, and is more enriched with sculpture on the outside than the generality in that stile. The tabernacle work over the stalls in the choir is very curious, as are the large arches added upon vaulting the Choir; this addition of wood work being so managed, that it appeared old as the other from the first setting up, and gave propriety to the whole. The tapestry over the altar was the gift of Mr. *Samuel Brook*, and is a representation of the apostles met together in the porch called the Beautiful Gate of the Temple, and receiving offerings from the new converts: in the back ground is represented the burial of *Ananias* and *Sapphira* without the walls of *Jerusalem*, whose inner and outer gates appear in perspective. The rails inclosing the baptistery belonged to the altar before the choir was vaulted, and the picture representing the adoration of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, by angels, was then placed in an elevated situation over the tapestry above the altar, where it was seen to peculiar advantage.

advantage, as a strong light, even sunshine, suits it best; and the different expressions of piety, love, humility, adoration, and wonder, in the countenances and attitudes of the figures, are uncommonly striking. The King's-arms, set up on the restoration of *Charles the 11d.* were removed at the same time from the east end of the church, and placed at the west, being new painted after the original design, with emblems of the monarchy and priesthood, which had been interrupted in their legal functions during the usurpation.

The windows of this church are a present monument of the fury which the fanatics exercised during that period when the painted Glass was broken, the fragments being collected and put together in that state of disorder which they now exhibit. The organ is said likewise to have suffered, being then accounted a good one; but that which served the choir afterward was defective, and the present grand organ was substituted in its stead by contribution.

There is an account printed here of the original foundation of this College, and a
succession

succession of Wardens, which was brought down to Warden Wroe. The author had certainly seen good records, and has reported facts, in a stile rather pedantic, and too diffuse for our narrative. There are some strictures on his characters, a little heightened with the acrimony of party; but as they throw light on the former state of the town and its history, we shall endeavour to preserve the order and substance of this account, making such remarks in the course of it as may justify our observations.

This College was founded by *Thomas West*, Lord Delaware, in 1422, consisting of one Master, eight Fellows, four Clerks, and six Choristers. About the same time the present church was erected, having formerly been a very large edifice, but of wood. The collegiate body at present consists of a Warden, four Fellows, two Chaplains, two Clerks, four Choristers, and four Singing-men.

John Huntington, Batchelor of civil and canon law, and Rector of *Ashton-under-line*, was the first Warden, named by the Founder himself. He was learned for that time, devout, magnificent, and of a public spirit.

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As he continued Warden near forty years, he had an opportunity of leaving a monument to his memory in the present stone church, he being the first to propose and assist in the erection of it. He built the choir part and the isles, as it is supposed, and further appears by the device, which is expressive of his name, yet to be seen when we look up from the higher part of the choir to the middle arch over the organ and the traverse beam above, at one end of which there is carved a huntsman with dogs, to signify hunting, and on the other a tun for the reception of liquor, to signify Ton; which, being joined, make Huntington. Having resided so many years, to the honour of this town and good of the College, he died Nov. 11th, 1458, and was interred in the middle of the choir, just before the altar, with his effigy in brass, in priestly vestments, and a Latin inscription, which imported, that he was the first Warden, and rebuilt the chancel, with a wish that God might be propitious to his soul, and a label round his head, with this quotation from the Psalms, "Lord, I have loved the beauty of thine house." This ac-

count states the College revenues at that time to be 250 marks per annum, and that a mark of silver then was equal to 40 shillings now, bullion being at that time but 20d. the ounce; from whence it is inferred, that the income was not so small as might be supposed; and we may add farther, to confirm this position, that workmen, according to the traditionary accounts of the time when this church was built, had only one penny for a day's work; so that every penny in a mark then, was at least equal in value to a shilling now.

John Booth, younger brother to *Booth* of *Berton*, which family since removed to *Dunham-Massey*, was the next Warden, in 1459; and being interested in the civil wars of *York* and *Lancaster*, was fined by *Edward* the IVth. It is supposed he lost his place, and was succeeded in 1465 by *Ralph Langley*, Rector of *Prestwich*. It appears by this account, that the Warden was then presented by the Founder's heir as patron, who transferred it for one turn to *Richard Halfield* and *Nicholas Stathorne*, and they appointed *Langley*; King *Edward*, though very arbitrary, not putting in

in a Warden by mandamus, as is now the case on a vacancy. This Warden caused the bells and chimes to be made; and as he retained his Rectorship with the government of this College, he left the latter, and returned to the other. He died at Prestwich, and was buried in the church there, having resigned the Wardenship the 27th of July, 1481, to James Stanley, D. D. Archdeacon of Richmond, Bishop of Ely afterwards, and brother to the Earl of Derby, who did not reside much at *Mancheller*, according to this account. This Warden was a benefactor to Jesus College, in Cambridge, and the stalls with tabernacle work, on the south side of this choir, were made at his expence; to which the *Derby* arms, and traditional story of the Eagle and Child, at the door of the Warden's stall, have a manifest allusion: and those arms on the end stall, and principal fellow's seat on the opposite side, allude to other families, at whose charge the stalls on the north side were erected.

This Warden also erected the stately chapel on the north side of the choir, by which the communication passes to the lesser door

on that side of the church. He seems to have resigned the Wardenship in his life-time, and died, according to our author, Bishop of Ely, in 1515; in which he might be deceived by Bishop Godwin, who is here quoted, but with so little reliance on his authority, that we need not repeat it. He was buried in a dormitory, separated from the chapel above mentioned by iron pallisadoes, and his effigy, with the pastoral robes in brass, lies under it, as we read it, this inscription.

“ Of your charitie pray for the soule of
 “ *James Stanley*, some time Bishop of *Ely*,
 “ and Warden of this Colledge of *Manchef-*
 “ *ter*; which deceased out of this transitory
 “ world on the 22d day of *March*, the year
 “ of our LORD GOD 1525; upon whose
 “ soule, and all Christian soules, *JHESU*.
 “ have mercy.” Then follows, in Latin, a
 quotation from some Popish hymn, and this
 passage from the song of *Moses*—“ O that
 “ they were wise; that they would under-
 “ stand this; they would consider their lat-
 “ ter end.”

Robert Cliffe succeeded him in 1509, being
 a Bachelor

a Bachelor of the Civil and Canon Law, in whose time the Free School and lands belonging thereto was subjected to the visitation of the Warden and Fellows, who were otherwise made parties in the trusts directed by the donation of the Founder.

George Well, younger Brother to the Lord *Delaware*, succeeded in 1518. He built the chapel at the east end, which *Sir John Byron*, of *Clayton*, once held; then the *Gethams*, who rebuilt it in right of the *Clayton* estates, with which it is now transferred by a female to another family: and it is remarkable, that none of the chapels adjoining to this church are in possession of the founders heirs, but that of the *Stanleys*, Earls of *Derby*.

George Colliar, brother to *Colliar* of *Colliar*, near *Stone* in *Staffordshire*, became Warden in 1535, when *Henry the VIIIth.* reigned: He seems to have been laid aside when the College was dissolved, in the time of *Edward the VIth.* but he was appointed again when *Queen Mary* re-founded it, and may be accounted one of the champions of Papacy at

that time, as he came with *Dr. Pendleton* to dispute with *Dr. Bradford* in 1555.

Laurence Vaux, or *Vause*, Bachelor in Divinity, and Chaplain to *James Brooks*, Bishop of *Gloucester*, was Warden in 1557; he and *John Coppage* having been the only two Fellows nominated on the new foundation by *Philip* and *Mary*, whence the College took the name of *St. Mary's*; and one street of the town is yet called *St. Mary's-gate*. This Warden was laborious, learned, and devout, but a zealous opposer of the reformation, and fled in the beginning of *Queen Elizabeth's* reign into *Ireland*, where he was robbed, and in danger of his life, but escaped from thence to *Lovaine*, and became a Monk of *St. Dennis*. He wrote a book in Latin on the ceremonies of the church, and another on confession; was a schoolmaster of an *English* school at *Lovaine*, and wrote an *English* catechism for the instruction of children and ignorant people, which was approved of by the *French* King and some *Popish* doctors, but condemned by others. Afterward he returned to *Lancashire*, and lived, as this account supposes, near the place of his birth,
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about *Blackrod*, in the family of the *Standish's*, to whom he bequeathed his books, some of which continued in the family, and the altar plate of this church, which he took with him when he fled. The author of this account affirms he had seen part of this plate in the possession of that family; consisting of a curious gilt silver Paten, inlaid with pearl, for the consecration of the Host, and a very fine wrought Pix of plate, wherein it was laid up answering to the Paten; wishing a restoration of these to the church, as a generous act of that noble family. This Warden was well beloved and much honoured in *Manchester*, which might be the reason why some were more loth to quit Popery here, and in some parts of *Lancashire* where he resided, than in others.

William Birch, Master of Arts, and younger brother to *Birch* of *Birch Hall*, ordained by Bishop *Ridley*, and whose licence to preach was signed by *Edward* the VIth. with his own hand, had a presentation to this Wardenship in the room of *Lawrence Vaux*; but not complying with the measures of courtiers to alienate the revenues, he was kept out, and died

died at his Parsonage-house of *Stanhope*, in the bishoprick of *Durham*, 1572. Upon his rejection in 1560. *Thomas Herle*, a Cornish man, succeeded *Lawrence Vaux* in the Wardenship, being Chaplain to *Queen Elizabeth*, and more likely to comply with the policy of her time, which was to take from the clergy, and distribute it to courtiers, as one means of fencing against the return of Popery: and we find by this account, that he joined with the Fellows in granting long leases for this purpose; in which case it does not appear that they had any great benefit. Possibly they might be intimidated by the fear of losing all; as, by this account, it was a question in law, whether the College was not suppressed by the Act 1st of *Elizabeth*, upon which the whole revenue was liable to be seized; and the grants which he and his fellows made, in favour of the courtiers, might be on that account; for it is expressly said, they served themselves by procuring them from this Warden and Fellows, which might secure to their successors much of what they now enjoy. There is no doubt but the odium of such alienations would fall upon
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this Warden, as the tool of the courtiers; and he might be impoverished and prosecuted even by them; but the pension of twenty pounds a year, which was allowed him for a subsistence, when laid aside upon the new foundation, was a strong presumption that he had neither served himself nor his relations by these alienations.

Upon the new foundation in 1573, *John Wolton*, or *Woolton*, was appointed, being a Bachelor in Divinity, and born at *Wigan* in this county, of a good family by the mother's side: a pious, painful and able divine. He continued scarce two years, and was then made Bishop of *Exeter*; being an earnest assessor of conformity; and indited letters as in a state of sound health, not two hours before his death, which happened *March* the 13th, 1593.

William Chadderton, D. D. born at *Note-hurst* in this parish, succeeded in the Wardenship; who, after several preferments in the university of *Cambridge*, was Bishop of *Chester*, then Warden here, and resigned the place on being translated to the see of *Lincoln*,

coln, dying in *April 1606*. He was learned, liberal, and pious, given to hospitality, and a more frequent preacher than other Bishops of that time. The too frequent jarings between his servants and the town's-people, made him leave *Manchester* before he resigned the Wardenhip, and reside at *Chester*.

John Dee, being only Master of Arts, (though generally called Doctor *Dee*) was installed with great solemnity, in the presence of the Churchwardens, whose names are mentioned in the account, to which we refer. He commenced Warden, *Feb, 20th, 1595*, and was a very learned man, particularly in the mathematics, insomuch that he was thought to be a conjuror. He often apologized for himself, but was insulted and interrupted in his studies, till he fled beyond seas, and his library was seized, in which were 4000 books, 700 of them manuscripts. Since this account was given, some of his practices, with a call and magical mirror, have been published; but the questions, answers, and descriptions of the spirits, are alike trifling and unsatisfactory.

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He was recalled by Queen *Elisabeth*, who had conceived a good opinion of him, and once desired to see his library, with a concave glass; perhaps the magical mirror above-mentioned. She was wonderfully satisfied with the sight, and sometimes sent him 100 marks, or 200 angels, to keep his Christmas with. Though he was called a conjuror, he sharply reprov'd one *Hartley* (perhaps thought by him a real conjuror) for it. He was very sober, just, temperate in his carriage, and exact in both public and private devotions. In 1604 he quitted the town; but did not die till 1608, aged 81 years.

Upon his death *William Burne*, Bachelor in Divinity, one of the Fellows in the College, a learned man, and well beloved in the town, made interest for the Wardenship, having married a kinswoman of the *Cecil's*; and it is said they procured him a grant for it, but he was prevented from taking possession, by the Scotch party then prevalent at Court, who urg'd that he was puritanically inclined: but to satisfy his friends he had tythes as a composition, to the value of 30l. per annum,

by

by a lease for three lives; and the Scotch party put in one of their countrymen.

This Warden's name was *Richard Murray*, D. D. Rector of *Stopford*, and Dean of *St. Buriens*, in *Cornwall*. He had some hereditary honours, and was of a good family. These, with his preferments, made him so ambitious, as to require the Fellows, Chaplains, Singing-men, and Choristers, to attend him from his house to the church, with the verge before him, and several in waiting; and once he demanded the Warden's stall from the Bishop of *Chester*, then seated in it according to custom, saying, "My Lord, that seat belongs to the Warden:" removing into the body of the church, that he might not sit below the Bishop: but came timely enough to take possession in the afternoon, and kept the Bishop out of it. He affected great state when at *Manchester*, with suitable housekeeping and hospitality, but was frugal when from home, or on a journey. He is said to have been competently learned; but only preached twice at *Manchester*; once upon the first verse in *Genesis*, and then on the last verse of *Revelation*; which occasioned a
remark,

remark, that he had preached from one end of the bible to another. He preached once before King *James*, on the words, "I am not ashamed of the gospel," &c. Perhaps he was not pedantic enough, or the King was disposed to joke; and when the preacher kissed hands, according to custom, he remarked, "Mon, thou art not ashamed of the gospel; but, by my faul, the gospel may be ashamed of thee." The King and his courtiers ought rather to have been ashamed for giving the place to such a man, and taking it from *Bourn*, who had a previous right and a better character.

In his time the choir part of the church was very ruinous, and the roof so bad as to be in danger of falling; but he was least solicitous to repair them, who should have been most concerned. The revenues of the College were much impaired by his leases; the Fellowships, and other places, either kept void, or very ill paid; so that, in a great measure, he seized most of the income, though he, least of any Warden, had a right to it, having never qualified himself by taking the oath required by the Statutes to allow

for his absence, without which he could not be entitled to any of the revenues. This occasioned great murmurings and general complaints. At last, a petition and representation of the case was made to King *Charles Ist.* who referred it to the consideration of Archbishop *Laud*, Lord *Coventry*, and the Earl of *Manchester*. It was afterwards committed to the examination of the Bishops of *Chester* and the *Isle of Man*, with others named in a commission for causes ecclesiastical; when, after full proof of the complaints heard at *Manchester*, where they sat upon the matter, they proceeded in due form of law, with mature deliberation, to summon the Warden personally, and removed him, whom they pronounced to have been no Warden from the first, and the College to have a weak foundation, or none at all. Upon the whole, it was new founded in 1636, and *Richard Heyrick* named for the first Warden of that foundation. He was a Bachelor of Divinity, descended from an antient family in *Leicestershire*, the *Heyricks* of *Beumannor*, being educated at *All-Souls College, Oxford*, of which he was Fellow.

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The first thing he and the Fellows of this new foundation had to do, was to repair the ruinous part of the choir, which they did by renewing all their leases, giving up the fines wholly to that use; whereby the middle part, with both side isles, were new roofed, battled, and adorned with pinnacles in 1638: but the great rebellion soon after breaking out, the College was dissolved, the members turned out, the chapter-house and chest were forced open, their writings being seized and carried away by Colonel *Birch*, a near neighbour and parishioner. The Warden complying with the prevailing side, was permitted to stay as preacher to the town, with a salary of 100*l.* per annum, and continued till the return of *Charles* 1*st.* when he was again restored to the Wardenship, and kept in by the power and interest of the Earl of *Manchester*, in opposition to others at court, who had prevailed with the King to bestow it on a Doctor *Woolley*: but Warden *Heyrick* kept the place till he died in 1667, and was buried near the altar, with an inscription in brass set up over his tomb, at the north side of the choir, drawn up by his old acquaintance and

fellow collegian *Thomas Case*, Master of Arts; the account which we refer to, calls him one *Mr. Thomas Case*, and seems to lessen his character, by representing him as a known preacher in *London*, among the gifted brethren of those days: but it appears by the inscription on his monument, that this old friend and fellow student of the deceased Warden was learned and ingenious at composition; that the Warden had a living in *Norfolk*, before he was preferred to *Manchester*, which is here overlooked, though the benefices of others are enumerated; that he refused several preferments offered him during the usurpation, and opposed, rather than countenanced, the extravagant tenets of that time; being yet of so mild a disposition, as to have many differences referred to his decision; in which respect he gained the character of a peace-maker in an eminent degree. This monument to which the reader is referred, was taken down, upon the late alterations in the choir, and laid with some lumber in the chamber over the porch at the south door, where it may be inspected, if not removed since this was written; and may justify our
remarks

remarks, from the bad consequences of party spirit, which is too often indulged in this history of the Wardens.

Nicholas Stratford, Bachelor in Divinity, Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, afterward Doctor of Divinity, Prebendary of *Lincoln*, Dean of *St. Asaph's*, with a good donative at *Llanroost*, in *Wales*, was made Warden here in 1667, but resigned the place at *Candlemas*, 1684, and went to be preacher at *Aldermanbury*, *London*, where he continued till after the revolution, and was then promoted to the See of *Chester*, on the death of Bishop *Cartwright*. Doctor *Stratford* had deservedly the character of a learned and very good man, frequently preaching, both when Warden and Bishop; zealous in the pulpit; exemplary when out of it; yet of a meek mild temper, affable and courteous to all, especially to his clergy, whom he treated as brethren. His character was conspicuous, being given to hospitality, and faithful to his trust. We doubt not to ascribe all these good qualities to Bishop *Stratford*, as he truly came up to the character, given more at large on his monumental inscription in *Chester cathedral*.

thedral. But why should we add the invidious comparison between him and his predecessor, which may be alike applied to Bishop *Cartwright* or Warden *Heyrick*. Perhaps the comparison was intended to glance at the Warden then in possession when this account was written, as it originally closed with the death of Bishop *Stratford's* immediate successor.

This gentleman's name was *Richard Wroe*, born at *Radcliffe* in *Lancashire*, August 21st, 1641, admitted into *Jesus's College*, *Cambridge*, June 1658; A. B. 1661; Fellow of that College, July 21st, 1662; made Master of Arts, 1665, the year of the great plague; Bachelor in Divinity, June 11th, 1678; then Doctor, 1686; Prebend of *Chester*, March 15th, 1678; Fellow of *Manchester*, March 9th, 1675; Warden, May 1st, 1684; and died Warden here, January 1st, 1718. He gave such early and distinguished proofs of genius, that *Charles the 2d.* made him Warden; and such was his happy talent in preaching, that he acquired the peculiar appellation of *Silver-tongued Wroe*. Being an exemplary pattern of morality and piety, as
well

well as an eminent preacher, and universally beloved while living, he died as much lamented by all to whom he was known.

Samuel Peploe, Vicar of *Preston*, on the rebellion in 1715, took so open and decided a part in favour of Government, that he was made Warden by King *George 1st.* in 1718, to succeed *Richard Wroe*; and Bishop of *Chester* on the Death of Bishop *Gastrell*, in 1725. He resigned the Wardenship in favour of his son, and was twenty-seven years Bishop of *Chester*, dying in 1752. His monument is set up in *Chester* cathedral; and the inscription, in Latin, with great propriety ascribes his preferments to the favour and good will of God and his Prince.

Samuel Peploe, Doctor of Laws, Chancellor and Prebend of *Chester*, Archdeacon of *Richmond*; Rector of *Northern* and *Taxall*, was made Warden on the resignation of his father in 1738. He was a learned, honest, worthy, pious, and good man, much respected by the clergy here, and at *Chester*, as here-fided occasionally at both places, and was remarkable for his frequent attendance on public

lic worship. His great affability to the members of each choir, or those whom he took notice of for their attendance at prayers, has greatly endeared his memory among the lower class of people. Those of a superior rank, found in his company and conversation none of that sourness and formality observable in some devotees; for though he was exact in his attendance at public worship, yet he was remarkable for the ease, politeness, facetiousness, and urbanity of his manners. As a gentleman, he was liberal without ostentation; possessing the happy talent which conferred favours, or softened the disappointment of a refusal, with a grace peculiar to himself, while he preserved the gravity and decency of the clerical character. The same ease and dignity accompanied the delivery of his compositions from the pulpit; where, if he touched upon controversy, he went through it with less acrimony, and more precision, than is generally observed on some occasions. In short, he was, to sum up his character, a devout Christian, an able preacher, a sound divine, and a polite gentleman. He died in October, 1781, and was succeeded

succeeded by the present Warden, Doctor *Asheton*, who is also Rector of *Middleton*.

We shall continue the course of our perambulation, which this history of the Wardens has interrupted, from the Collegiate church up the *Deansgate*, which street is bounded by the *Irwell*, till the buildings extend on the right hand over the *Parsonage-green*, where *St. Mary's* church has been erected by the clergy of the Collegiate church, for which an Act of Parliament was procured, vesting the patronage in that body, and enabling them to sell building land upon advantageous terms. The money expended in erecting this church, was refunded by the sale of pews. The buildings have increased in the vicinity of this church over most of the *Dole-field*, and along the river side, with little interruption, to the quay for the old navigation on the *Irwell*. There is an opening left for a bridge over the river at the bottom of *Dole-field*, which is now building by subscription; the first stone being laid on *Tuesday, May the 6th, 1783*. The Subscribers for this bridge had some previous meetings, where several plans were submitted to their inspection,

inspection, before they came to a determination, and fixed on a plan drawn by Mr. *David Broad*, architect, and gave the contract for building it to Mr. *Jesse Broad*, his father, and Mr. *Jones*, who had been concerned in his Grace the Duke of *Bridgewater's* works. The bridge is to built bevel across the *Irwell*, where it is 116 feet in breadth. There are to be two segment arches, each nineteen yards at the base, and twenty-two feet in perpendicular: the breadth of each land pier six feet; of the middle pier, eight feet: intended breadth of the bridge between the battlements, thirty-six feet; with flag paths on each side of six feet. The construction of the arches in this bridge will be particularly curious; by making solid blocks of stone both arch and pilaster united, for six feet above the springers, by contract, which will be continued higher, and give the utmost firmness to the work; greatly contributing to bear off the weight of masonry on the frame, as the arches may be sprung much of the height above-mentioned without laying the centre; and when one is fixed, the cross-beams may be laid higher in proportion from the low-water

water mark. This bridge, when finished, may be deemed one of the best in *England*, of two arches, and will greatly shorten the road from *Warrington*, *Bolton*, &c. to those parts of the town with which it communicates by *Dole-field* with the upper-end of *Deansgate*, a little above the *Coach and Horses* Inn, which has lately been rebuilt, with good rooms and additional stabling, for the accommodation of company or carriages passing this way.

This part of *Deansgate*, where the communication enters from the intended bridge, was once nearly the extremity of building this way, some irregular streets about the Quaker's meeting-house and *Cupid's-alley* excepted, which were then detached from the head of *Deansgate*. The erection of *St. John's* church and vicinity of the navigation, have greatly extended the buildings on that hand.

St. John's church was built by the late *Edward Byrom*, Esq; for which he had an Act of Parliament, vesting the patronage in him and his heirs for two presentations; after which it rests in the Warden and Fellows
of

of the Collegiate church. The vaults, which are curious, and extend all under the church, are vested in fee-simple to him and his heirs. The figures of *Peter*, *James*, and *John*, in the east window over the altar, and the founders arms in the vestry, are a proof that the art of staining or painting on glass is not lost, as was generally supposed, but much improved.

We have now compleated our perambulation to a view of *Castle-field* and the quay, from whence we begun it; to which place the resort of genteel strangers is great, at stated times, to take the benefit of the passage-barges on the canal, as pleasure or business invite them, to *Warrington*, *Liverpool*, *Chester*, &c. or to see the lofty aqueduct over the *Irwell*, and the admired subterranean navigation. Our provincial Poet has an epigram on both, and a description of the latter: we shall give the first entire, and a quotation from the other, for the amusement of our readers.

Cotton may boast, in his descriptive song,
Of wonders in the Peak, admir'd so long;
These

These works no less a prodigy can boast,
Where admiration, where description's lost!
Seen and acknowledg'd by astonish'd crowds,
From under ground emerging to the clouds;
Vessels o'er vessels, water under water,
Bridgwater triumphs--art has conquer'd nature.

The other is a quotation from a description of the subterranean navigation and nearest coal works, when they were mostly visited, and is as follows.

Passing the nearest veins of coals, which lie
With arches mark'd to the observer's eye,
The nearest mine we enter, either way;
This, on the right keeps verging to the day,
As gently that towards the left descends,
And downward haply to the centre tends:
Such the descent, as when a loaded wain,
Down easy slopes requires the slack'ning
chain.

On nature's secrets here the curious gaze,
While they the miners works with wonder trace,
Discov'ring, by a taper's glim'ring ray,
Capacious chambers hewn out either way;
Where, unconcern'd, his task the collier plies:
At once it pleases, and it terrifies.

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The soul of enterprize his bosom fir'd,
Who, with the ruder arts of tillage tir'd,
First fix'd his eyes upon the sparkling ore,
Where frequent floods had worn the cliff before;
Or if a vein upon the surface lay,
Gleaming refulgent to the solar ray,
Following its track, at first without design,
He next begun the hills to undermine. [close,
Nor fear'd the pit's tremendous jaws shou'd
While digging tow'rd the centre down he goes.

Yet, in these gloomy caverns of the mine,
The curious may in our reflections join,
And, from the shelving strata under ground,
Draw arguments the Sceptic to confound:
Lo! the rude ranges, from whatever cause,
Slope and ascend by universal laws;
Whether a partial, or some gen'ral shock,
Push'd from its equipoise the riven rock,
And hence (th' effect of such convulsive pangs)
Our globe unequal to th' ecliptic hangs;
Or if the ribs of this enormous mass,
From due insertions at the centre pass,
And ev'ry way toward the surface run,
To catch the genial influence of the sun;
If earth her sluggish womb impregnates thus,
These knotty points we never can discuss:

Suffice

Suffice it, that the Sove'reign Architect
The universe he form'd, can well direct;
His pow'r produc'd the whole on wisdom's plan—
Man for himself—this furnish'd globe for man.
Nor think, how'er by splendid titles grac'd,
These wretches much beneath thy notice plac'd:
Naked for thee if thus they dig the mine,
Small is the diff'rence in his vast design:
Alike if thou or they in duty fail,
Either may be transpos'd upon the scale;
When some are rais'd, and others are depress'd,
As He who holds th' eternal square sees best.

There are some marginal notes in prose annexed to this poem, containing such remarks as may give an idea to strangers of the progress made in this navigation, and the difficulties arising in the course of its execution, with the means whereby they were happily surmounted. We shall collect them into one continued narrative, beginning at the subterranean work described in the above quotation.

The Duke's principal intention being to make a canal from this subterranean, which is called the Level by the workmen, because

the least deviation from that level was to be avoided; hence there was a necessity to raise ground for the intended canal in some places, and of digging to a considerable depth in others. For the removal of materials from these last places boats were employed, such as are used to clear harbours with. These transported the redundant earth, clay, stone, &c. to where the land required raising, while some barges of the inland navigation species were employed to carry stone, brick, timber, and lime for the works and bridges of communication: but the greatest number were of the Pontoon kind, being long, and narrow enough to go up the subterranean, and clear away what was digged there; this being of great use to form banks where the course of the canal required it, in land which lay too low for the level. There was observed in one part of its course, not far from the subterranean, a strata of calcareous grit and gravel, near the surface, which was converted into lime by mixing it with clay, and rough moulding the mixture as for bricks, which were dried and burnt to lime. The manner of converting lime into mortar was very expeditious

peditious, being performed by a large horizontal stone, put in motion by a water wheel; upon this two other stones were carried about with great velocity. These being uprights, were so placed as to fall upon different places of the under stone, and take up most of its surface; and water or sand being added as there was occasion, the mortar was ground to a perfect smoothness in a short space of time.

The difficulties which his Grace experienced of entering the old navigation, from an opposition to the canal interest, made him form a resolution to carry his works across the *Irwell*, and an Act of Parliament was procured for that purpose; but the road to *Barton* bridge was to be preserved; both this and the low land, with the channel of the river were to be crossed by an aqueduct; and the attempt was thought so romantic, that nothing but the success which followed, could have cleared the undertakers from the charge of rashness.

The work, however, was taken in hand, and the canal carried by a bridge over the road, which was lowered by sinking in the

rock to receive carriages. The intervening space to the *Irwell* was then inclosed in solid mounds of earth rammed with clay, at intervals, to keep in the water: into this space the soil, sand and gravel, brought from other parts of the canal, were deposited, and laid in even strata, by flooding from time to time at the extreme part of the navigation, where boats discharged these materials, till the whole level was made good to *Irwell* banks, and materials could be conveyed by water for the construction of an aqueduct, the arches for which were carried over the river with all speed. There was a necessity for laying a quantity of heavy materials on these arches for the sides of the canal, that mules might pass and re-pass in towing vessels, so that danger was apprehended of the arches being back-sprung, as the workmen term it, when the weight upon an abutment overbalances that upon the crown. To prevent this consequence, the spaces between each arch were secured by small arches springing from each other, till the vacancy between each abutment was rendered firm and light as possible, and the aqueduct carried over in so complete a manner,

a manner, that it may vie with any work of the same magnitude, ancient or modern.

One great motive to the execution of this difficult undertaking, was the prospect of proceeding with more dispatch and less expence afterward; for the rock on the opposite bank rose to about the level, and carried it over *Trafford Moss* at little expence, with the convenience of branching the canal into *Cheshire*, and carrying it on, according to the first design, to *Manchester*.

In carrying on the *Cheshire* branch beyond *Stretford*, there was a necessity to raise a channel, with sufficient banks for the canal over the low grounds, above half a mile in extent. The method of constructing these banks was as new and curious as the design was commendable; being the most frugal, and yet likeliest to make the work durable: nor was it taken up in a hurry, by way of expedient, (a practice frequent with shallow projectors) but the necessity of it was foreseen, and the execution facilitated, by leaving ground uncut for near the same extent, all but a channel just to bring up boats; so that when the
work

work was entered upon, there was earth at hand for the purpose; and the manner of discharging it was hastened by boats with moveable bottoms, by which the earth was deposited at once into water raised to the level by a calloon made of deal barks, so much wider than the canal, as to allow for the falling down of earth, when it was removed to carry the work forward; so that the included materials naturally acquired such a slope as strengthened the work above, by an increase of its breadth to the base, while banks were left for a road, whereby the communication in floods is secured over the low grounds. We shall trace this branch of the canal no farther, but give an account of the other to *Manchester*, as more connected with our subject.

When this branch turned from the extremity of *Trafford Moss*, in its course to the town, there was a prodigious head of stiff marl to be cut through; and nothing but a continual spirit of emulation, kept up among the workmen with great address, could have made them get through such a discouraging obstacle; but this difficulty once conquered,
and

and a bridge being made for the high road to *Stretford*, the canal was carried on with ease on the declivity along old *Trafford* to *Cornbrook*.

This rivulet made an obtuse angle with the intended course of the canal under the high road, and was so near the level, that an elevation for a bridge could not take place to carry it over; hence a circular weir was made to raise it even with the canal, and convey the overplus water in floods underneath.

From *Cornbrook* it was brought to the *Medlock*, and that river raised to the level by a circular weir, with a grand hexagonal basin, the contour of which may yet be traced from the height of *Castle-field*; but the floods have nearly wrecked it up. In digging to widen the yard at the wharfs of the canal, the foundations of a wall, and fireds of urns were discovered: there was one urn entire, with its cover and contents, but a tool was struck in it before it was noticed: it was of burnt clay, a fine red, much like the *Burslem* tea-pots; in the form of two bowls, the wider and shallower being the cover: both were

were divided into compartments, with hieroglyphical figures, and the inscription *Advocati*, in Roman capitals, which we leave to antiquarians. It may be inferred from these remains, and the Roman station above, that the vulgar traditions and old ballad of *Torquin*, the *Knot-mill* giant, and his castle there, may have had for their foundation the cruelties formerly exercised in these parts by some Roman governor; *Tarquinius* and *Torquatus* being Latin names: and the former might be applied by way of stigma to a tyrannical governor.

Having traced the construction and course of the canal, from the subterranean to the wharfs, we shall pursue the order at first proposed, by describing the alterations made in the streets and avenues leading to the Market-place; taking notice of those interior improvements which lay out of the line of our perambulation.

Before the erection of *St. Ann's* church, which was begun in 1709, the buildings did not extend on that side beyond the entrance of *St. Ann's* square, next the Exchange, being

ing bounded by a ditch and a large field called the *Acres*, which the Lord of the Manor had a right to enter and occupy as a beast fair, on the feast of St. *Matthew*, old stile, and the day preceding, yearly. The ditch, which almost surrounded this field, was a great nuisance, and the soil was so trodden at the fair, being easily entered at other times as a place of exercise also, that the owner could neither occupy it himself, nor let it with any prospect of advantage. He was at last advised to give land for a church at the upper-end and sell the rest for building, reserving the area of the square for the Lord's yearly fair, to which the owners of plots bought opposite had a full title all the year besides; and when the Lord of the Manor attempted to set up butchers stalls there formerly, they were forced to quit the premises.

Upon the erection of this church, the town has increased from the entrance of St. *Ann's* square towards the Market-place, all that square, with its environs, taking in the whole *Acres-field*, *King-street*, *Ridge-field*, &c. *Brazen-nose* and *Hulme's-street*, with some build-
ings

ings thereabout, are new erections, and *St. James's-square* not of long standing.

The lower part of *St. Ann's* church is carried up in the Corinthian order, of an elegant taste, and the alcove at the east end, finished in that stile; but the view is too confined: there is a niche above, intended for the statue of *Queen Anne*, but she died before the church was finished. The higher range of pilasters in the body of this church can be assigned to no order: it is said the artist or manager was changed by death or otherwise; yet there is the same exhibition of genius throughout at the east end. The steeple has gone through strange revolutions. There was first a cupola above the square part of the tower, which had some consistency with the architecture, as spires have generally with the gothic; but instead of springing arches for this, it was laid upon cross pieces of timber, and carried up too high on so precarious a foundation, being likewise overloaded at the top with a monstrous vane and ornamental iron work. This cupola was thought so dangerous, that it was taken down some years since, before any plan was formed

to substitute any thing in its stead, and there was no provision made for repairs or alterations in the foundation. In that state it continued, till a subscription was raised to heighten the tower, and finish it with a spire. Contracts are often the ruin of public works: a contract to carry up the spire to such a height, at such a sum, made the undertaker curb in the lower dimensions of the spire too hastily, which, being overloaded with iron-work, as injudiciously as before, was expected to fall the first storm: to prevent, therefore, any misfortune, this was taken down, and the tower left in its present state. A cupola might have been finished from below, where the base of the spire had been curbed, at a little expence, either of wood or masonry, as this is a proper adjunct to the Corinthian architecture, and looks better, like a balcony, than when carried higher. But there is a fatality in some human designs, when intended for the best; as those who have been concerned in this affair can sufficiently testify.

The patronage of *St. Ann's* was vested in the See of *Chester*, in compliment to Sir

F

William

William Dawes, then Bishop. *Mr. Barne* was first presented; and, upon the Rectory falling, Bishop *Peploe* gave it to *Mr. Hoole*, then Curate, at the earnest petition of his hearers, and some of the leading people in town, though many of them had disobliged him: an instance of condescension and forgiveness of injuries, which does honour to his memory, and gave the utmost propriety afterwards to the appointment of his relation, *Mr. Ward*, the present Rector. The two first Rectors lie buried at the east end of the church yard, under plain flag stones, with Latin inscriptions. *Mr. Hoole* preached his last sermon a little before the Scots came here in 1745, and was interring when they took possession of the square, many of them coming to the grave side, who took off their bonnets, and continued till the burial service was ended, behaving very decently.

The erection of *St. Ann's* and its square, were thought a great addition to the town; but the communications to both, before the late alterations, were as bad as can be imagined. To those who have seen them, their
own

own remembrance will paint them, better than any account we can give: but that strangers may have some idea of the difference between the former and present communications, we shall here attempt a description.

Before the present avenue was opened between St. Ann's church and square to the Exchange, the communications went under the Old Coffee-house fronting the Exchange, in a line with the corner shop towards *Market-street-lane*; that for carriages, through a narrow gateway, which was farther disgraced by a cobbler's stall, and over this by narrow stairs, in the true garret stile, there was one way to the Old Coffee-house rooms above, those below being let for shops. There was just room for passengers on foot to avoid carriages on that side to the stairs, by keeping in a line with them, and bolting through the gateway as there was an opportunity. On the other hand, there was a temporary retreat into that opening of the flag path before the *Dog Inn*, then secured by a wall, or in the corner by the *Goose inn* door, op-

posite the Exchange Coffee-house: but the difficulty of passing that corner was great in a line of carriages, as an old building projected against it on the opposite side, and made it difficult to gain the direct opening this way to St. Ann's square.

The other communication from the Market-place for people on foot, was through an entry which led to the great stairs of the Old Coffee-house, and across a small court, where a pump stood at the head of the only passage this way; which was so gloomy and dismal, even at noon day, that it deservedly acquired the denomination of the *Dark-entry*. Both this passage, and that from the Exchange, were intollerably dirty at some seasons of the year; and when the Cimmoerian gloom of the dark entry was cheered with a little light from the sky, at its exit towards the square, an old building made a sharp angle with it, as incommodious as the pump at the other end. The town's-people, from a knowledge of this dark entry, made a pause at either end, if they heard any one had entered it at the other, for there was no seeing them,

them, and when the passage was open they pushed on in their turn. When the corner was cleared, and some traverses made past irregular buildings, this communication entered *St. Ann's square* opposite the flags on the west side, by a passage where there was formerly a turn-stile, which greatly incommoded people at a fair or in a throng, to the diversion of unlucky boys: but this was taken away some time before the late alterations.

To open the present avenue, and widen the other streets communicating with the market-place, there were some meetings of the inhabitants. All agreed to the necessity of those alterations proposed, but some were for raising money by tolls, to be taken at the main entrances into the town: others foresaw that this method would exasperate the market people, and induce them to charge provisions higher; proposing, instead of tolls, to make a voluntary subscription. The latter proposal was carried, money subscribed, and an Act of Parliament procured, under the powers of which the intended alterations are nearly finished.

The Exchange, before that opening from St. Ann's square, appeared a heavy pile of building, from the confined points of view on every side of it. Now it has a good effect from the square or St. Ann's church, as a strong, regular, and well executed piece of architecture. It was built at the expence of Sir *Oswald Mosley*, then Lord of the Manor, the lower part for chapmen to meet in and transact business; but they have generally preferred the market-place before it for that purpose, and butchers stalls are occasionally set up in it on market days. The upper story is for a sessions room and manor courts, having sometimes served for public exhibitions, before the Theatre and public Concert-room were erected.

The old Theatre is now converted into a news-room and tavern, with a cotton warehouse below, the assembly room being continued yet above, which is large and elegantly finished. A patent has been procured for the new Theatre, from which the public formed great expectations; but some deficiencies in the performers or management have been experienced

perienced. The Concert-room is esteemed to be one of the best in *England*, for the convenient disposition of the seats, the elegance of its lustres, organ, &c. The retiring-room and back stairs for performers, the judicious elevation of the orchestra, to produce the happiest effect which music so powerfully commands, and the genteel company at the concerts on public nights, are undeniable proofs that this species of entertainment was planned with judgment, and is conducted with the utmost decency, prudence, and integrity.

Near the new Theatre and Concert-room there was formerly some springs, which supplied a conduit with water, where the Exchange now stands: the water, after some interruption, was brought again to that end of the Exchange towards *St. Mary's-gate*, but failed entirely, upon building over that land where the springs had been appropriated to serve the conduit.

The openings of *St. Mary's-gate*, *Cateaton-street*, and the *Old Milngate*, have added greatly to the convenience of passengers, and
beauty

beauty of the new erections. The improvements in *Cateaton-street* are now compleated, by taking down part of the building at the upper-end of *Old-Milngate*, and new fronting it to *Cateaton-street*. Our learned Antiquarian supposes a mill flood formerly near this place, which might have been the case when the water came this way, for there appears to have been a large channel from the communication which goes out of *Hanging-ditch* to the Collegiate church yard, upon which houses now stand, capacious enough to reserve a pool of water, with a rapid descent to favour such a situation; and we have just discovered a circumstance, to confirm what has now been advanced on the water coming this way formerly. Our informant is *George Duckworth*, who was employed in lowering the drains along the middle of *Hanging-ditch*, where the workmen found, under the old drain, a bed of water gravel, into which they sunk, and carried the new drain along the course of it, finding a horse shoe in the gravel, which was a plain indication that the high road lay through the channel where the water then run, constituting what is generally

rally called a Wash-way. One of the workmen, indeed, supposed, that the water coming this way must have been the *Irk*; which was impossible, from the level of its channel being much below *Hanging-ditch*; which confirms us in the opinion, that the water came down the *Shude-hill*. But from the depth of this water-gravel under the original drain, and old buildings in the channel about *Hanging-bridge*, we must allow that the water was turned another way for some time before the reservoirs were made; a circumstance which we could not decide upon till this discovery. The *Old Miln-gate*, some years since, was only accounted a road of sufferance; but it was so crowded with carriages on a market day, that it was dangerous to pass them; and the *Smithy-door*, which was the proper road to *Salford* bridge, being also wedged up with throngs meeting like two opposite currents, there appeared to be yet a necessity of removing the market people, either wholly or in part, to some other situation.

There is a tradition that the *Smithy-door* acquired

acquired that name, on the following laughable occasion. A smith had some money owing him by one of those shirking debtors, that would rather expend money in law than pay the debt. The smith kept good accounts in his own way, with chalk behind the smithy door. After frequent duns and much wrangling, the account was cast up on the smithy-door, which the debtor still evaded paying, till he was sued at the Hundred Court of *Salford*; depending upon a trick in law, of which the smith had no apprehension; and on the trial urged him to produce his book in court: he urged in answer, that he had a good book at home, which he could swear to, and only asked leave of the Court to fetch it; which being granted, away he runs home, takes the door off the hinges, and brings it on his back, well attended by his neighbours, into the court, amidst the loud applauses of all present. In short, the smithy-door was allowed to be a good book in law; which cast his antagonist, and gave name to this street, where the smith then lived.

The perpetual throngs in this street and about

about the Market-place, together with the great number of butchers stalls set up in the Market-street, pointed out a necessity of removing the stalls, by furnishing a new market, which has been happily effected, to the further improvement of this town and manor.

The town has obtained this noble and convenient Market-place, from the condescension of Sir *John Parker Mosley*, Lord of this Manor, after it had been planned, and in a great measure finished, through the adventurous and comprehensive spirits of two Gentlemen, who hazarded considerable property to establish it. For this purpose they purchased the *Pool-court* and *Hyde-park*, as most convenient for openings each way, and capable of being cleared at a less expence, as the buildings were old, and for the most part cottages. With these advantages, added to a well-chosen situation, they would have ruined the scheme if they had been afraid of expence, for the whole area, when cleared, lay in a hollow. To remedy this defect, they made sufficient drains, and arched over the
greater

greater part, covering all with strong flags a little inclined to the drains. Here they erected substantial stalls for the butchers, and the market opened with great approbation and a concourse of buyers. Thus far the Gentlemen had proceeded, in opposition to the Lord of the Manor, and expected a suit, which was commenced, while they went on in the execution of their plan, and erected a market-house. None of the parties concerned could be interested in protracting the suit; it came therefore to a speedy decision in favour of the Manor. But such was the general inclination to continue this market, that the Lord of the Manor generously came to a compromise with the Gentlemen for the whole Market-place, at a stated consideration; the stalls to be finished on their plan, and the building ground about the area to continue at their disposal; and it is hoped this advantage will be a compensation for their risque and trouble. Whatever is the case, the erection of this market ought to perpetuate the names of Mr. *Chadwick* and Mr. *Ackers*, the worthy gentlemen who made this last noble addition to the improvements here; with
which

we shall conclude our description of *Manchester*, and proceed to the history of its manufactures.

An original branch of the *Manchester Trade* was leather laces for womens bodice, shoe ties, and points for other uses, of leather; which were tagged like laces, and sold under the general denomination of *Congleton Points*. Woven laces were substituted for these leather ones, and tagged in like manner, upon the introduction of Dutch looms. Inkle, tapes, and filleting were likewise made in those engines, which had been before made in frames or single looms, and coarse felts were made for country wear, but none of a finer quality. Bolsters, bed-ticks, and linen-girth web, with boot-straps, were manufactured early, but the *West of England* ticks and webs have long since out-rivalled them; though we are yet superior in woollen webs. Upon the decline of ticks, those concerned in that branch took more to the making of coarse checks, striped hollands, and hooping, and some yellow canvas was then made. The silk branch was attempted in cherry-derrys and thread fatten, but mostly

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kept at *London*. *Fuslians* were made about *Bolton*, *Leigh*, and the places adjacent, but *Bolton* was the principal market for them, where they were bought in the grey by *Manchester* chapmen, who finished and sold them in the country.

These *Manchester* chapmen went over regularly on market days to buy *fuslian* pieces of the weavers; every weaver then procuring yarn or cotton as they could, to make another piece, which subjected them to great impositions and inconveniencies. The buyers were disappointed, and suffered in their turn, when the demands of trade were brisk. To remedy this inconvenience, some of them furnished warps and wool to the weavers, and employed persons to put warps out to the weaving, by commission; and encouraged many weavers to fetch them from *Manchester*, endeavouring to secure the honesty and care of their workmen, upon bringing in the piece, by the force of good usage and prompt payment; but reserving to themselves a power of abatement, for deficiency in the spinning or workmanship.

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The kinds of fustian then made were herring-bones, pillows for pockets and outside wear, strong cotton ribs and baragons, broad-raced lin thicksets and tufts, dyed, with whited diapers, striped dimities, and lining jeans. Cotton thicksets were made sometimes, but as frequently dropped for want of the proper finishing. Tufts were often in demand at that time, and had considerable long runs; for as these goods were call up in a variety of figures for cutting, the openness of the figure required no finishing, from the slenderness of the fabric, being much like a diaper, which required them to be dyed and calendered, before they could go through the operation of cutting; and this had a further effect, to give the figures a shade different from the ground: besides all, they could be afforded cheap, and there was a great variety in the patterns; so that this article was then pushed to the full perfection it was capable of reaching, respect being had to the price: and so fond were the *Irish* in particular of wearing these tufts, that the leading people there dressed up the executioner in a full-trimmed suit, in which he performed his of-

fice; and afterwards, whoever walked the streets, wearing that species of fustian, were insulted, as wearing Jack Ketch's livery. Whatever was the cause, the wearing of this particular article has been long discontinued.

A peculiar felicity has attended the trade of this town, throughout the whole course of its rise, progress, and present extent; that when any branch of it has failed, the industry and invention of manufacturers have been so much the more excited to introduce others, whereon to employ their capitals, and encourage the ingenuity of their workmen.

Hence it was, that when tufts were no longer an article of consequence, more figured goods were made for whiting, and a greater variety of patterns attempted, by weavers who had been employed in the declining branch, and had looms ready mounted for that purpose: but as figures made with treadles are confined to a scanty range, beyond which they grow too complicated, they had recourse to the working of them by draw-boys, which gave name to a new and important branch of trade. Some yard-wides

wides being made and whited upon this plan, were bought up, and more called for with such avidity, that the utmost encouragement was given to ingenious weavers, and looms mounted for them at a great expence, which the employers advanced. In the course of trade since, great stocks of these draw-boys have lain upon hand, and there have been some great checks upon this article; but the variety of figures it is capable of exhibiting, and distinctness of quality in the sorts; the many uses to which it is adapted, and cheapness upon the whole, have rendered it a standing branch of trade, although quilting, which is wrought by draw-boys upon an improved plan, has in particular rivalled it, with counterpanes, and the various kinds of corded dimities lately introduced.

Much about the time when drawboys were first made, cotton velvets were attempted, and brought to some perfection in the manufacturing part: cotton thickets were likewise well manufactured; but there wanted the present methods of dressing, bleaching, dying and finishing, to give them the perfection which they have now obtained.

The manufacturers of check had by this time made great advances in trade, and introduced new articles; for as the coarse and narrow goods were made chiefly for sea orders, (sailors then wearing check shirts more frequently) or these articles were sent to plantations abroad; upon the conclusion of a peace, or a glut of the markets abroad, the manufacturers had less demands, and therefore made broader checks, besides the yard-wides of a finer and better quality, for home consumption. Then gowns, striped across with cotton, in a variety of colours and patterns, were introduced, and had a considerable run, silk being at last shot with the cotton, which gave them a richness, and contributed yet more to the variation of patterns. To these succeeded washing hollands, all cotton in the warp, which were a good article with the housewives, till yarn was mixed with the warp and ruined their character. But the methods of hardening and stiffening single cotton, and the facility with which it had been wrought in these hollands, induced some capital houses to undertake the manufacture of light cotton goods for the *African* trade,

trade, upon a failure of imports from the *East-Indies*, in which they succeeded, and had great demands; but were afraid of a stock, as the *East-India Company* could command the article, and sometimes gave them a check: but that Company seem to have thrown up the object; and the mixing of linen in the warps of these goods was detected by the negroes, on attempting to tear them across, before it spoiled the market; so that this branch of trade continued till the unhappy contest with *America* had interrupted the intercourse with *Africa*.

An application of the lighter open striped checks to bed hangings and window curtains, having shewn the propriety of an article for that purpose, furniture checks were made, and have almost set aside the use of stuffs in upholstery. The use of soft coloured silk in striped gowns, was followed by the introduction of it in warps, for the several species of ginghams, damascus, morees, &c. The tying and dying of silk handkerchiefs is lately brought to great perfection, so as to imitate those from *India*, for which they are sometimes

times substituted; and the various kinds of printed handkerchiefs here, both cotton and linen, are scarce to be enumerated.

The manufactory of hats has been as much improved here as any original branch of the *Manchester* trade; for our felt-makers at first only wrought the coarse sheeps wool, and it was some time before they used the fine *Spanish*, or the goats wool imported from *Germany*, and that from the *Levant*, which is a species of goats wool, though it is commonly called camels-hair, from its being carried on camels out of the interior continent to sea ports for exportation. Neither those wools, nor any of the furs called stuff, were then introduced, the process of working them being quite different from that of felting the coarse wool; which is first slightly put together in that conic shape, which makes the first rudiments of a felt, and then boiled with fern, floe leaves, oak bark, or any of the common astringents here; and for that reason they are now made in the country where such materials are at hand, by undertakers who have the wool from hence, and bring
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the felts back to be finished here, for an assortment to the orders, which are very extensive and pressing; for the manufactory of hats at *Manchester* is inferior to none, as the workmen here began to handle the fine wools, stuffs and beaver early, and are now perfect in the process of working them with beer grounds, spirits, &c. being equally expert in dying and finishing blacks, while they have acquired a decided superiority in fancy hats, in which this town may be said to lead, rather than follow the fashion. The linings have been long glazed and cut here, and serve other manufactories besides our own, having an advantage in the choice of fabrics here proper for them, and from the vicinity of *Chester*, where they can be served at the fairs; and the dying here in linens, whether black or fancy colours, is brought to great perfection: add to this, the looping is made in our swivel engines, and other trimmings in the neighbourhood,

To the manufactory of laces, incles, tapes and filleting, there was early added the divers kinds of bindings and worsted small-wares: but such has been the demand for
English

English worsted of the best quality by the manufacturers of furniture checks and Turkey stripes, that the small-ware makers were constrained to use *Irish* worsted, which, being cheaper, made them drop the prices; and the competition since, has been rather in lowness of price than the goodness of the articles, which has been, in some degree, the case with every branch of small-wares. This circumstance, however, put them upon improvements. It was found that the Dutch enjoyed the manufacture of fine Holland tapes unrivalled: plans were therefore procured, and ingenious mechanics invited over to construct swivel engines, at a great expence, but adapted to the light work for which they were first intended, on so true a principle, that they have been employed in most branches of small-wares with success; but with this advantage, that manufactory has not been sufficient to employ large capitals, without the aid of some other branch. The fustian trade has been added to it, first as an auxiliary, and then embraced as a principal, where there was capital to support it; and indeed it may be affirmed, that the frequent

quent novelty, the variety of patterns, and great perfection of the numerous articles in this branch of the *Manchester* manufactory, furnish a sufficient range for the employment of very large capitals, since the present method of dressing was brought to perfection.

The former deficiency in cotton velvets and thicksets, for want of this process, first put the manufacturers upon several methods to remedy that defect, by attempting to take off the loose flow on the surface of the goods with cloth sheers, razors, and spirits, scraping with edged tools, and rubbing with pumice and scythe stones were also practised to supple the goods, and give a lustre to the piles; but there was a manifest deficiency till the present method was invented and brought to perfection; which not only contributed to the establishment of those articles to which it was first applied, but likewise soon raised velverets, which were afterwards made as a middle species between velvets and thicksets, to a rivalry with the former; and gives to many other articles, both dyed and white, the highest degree of perfection.

The practice of dressing caused a revolution

tion in the whole system of bleaching and dying. Before this era, the lighter drabs and fancy colours might be said rather to hang on the surface, than to be fixed in the substance of cotton goods; and there was a necessity of varying the practice upon these articles, when they went through the ordeal process of dressing over glowing hot iron. This was kept a secret at first, and chiefly employed on blacks or dark colours, for fear of a discovery, which might prejudice the operator. Hence it was the dyers soon found a necessity of accommodating their practice to the operation of dressing, and either dropped the use of such volatile drugs as they found would not stand it, or sent goods in the half-dye to be dressed, which they finished afterwards. But here they were obliged to drop or simplify the old processes, and to invent new, employing the more fixed drugs and other astringents with more powerful menstruums, to discharge the rustiness contracted from the fire; in all which attempts they kept improving, till dressing in the grey took place, and goods were brought

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to a considerable perfection by alternate dressings and bleachings before they were dyed.

Notwithstanding this improvement, the younger dyers, who were not too much attached to the old processes, found sufficient employment for their invention, in the variety of patterns they were encouraged to produce for pattern-cards, which now begun to be circulated, not only in the King's dominions, but all over Europe; and the printing of many articles in the fustian branch gave a greater variety to these pattern-cards, while it gave a full scope to their invention, in dying grounds preparatory to most of them, and following the prints with other shades, till the art of printing here first rivalled that of *London*; and has now transferred that branch, in a great measure, from thence to the town of *Manchester* and its neighbourhood.

Several circumstances have concurred to fix the printing branch here. A principal one was, that cotton greys and calicoes are manufactured in these parts, and the *London* printers were supplied from hence by land carriage. The printing them here saves that

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expence, besides this advantage, the rent for bleaching-ground is lower, and there is cheaper living for workmen in the country; which brought down a succession of capital artists in this branch, who not only instructed others, but also added to their former experience by printing upon grounds, which the dyers followed with other shades; and hence there was a communication of nostrums and chymical secrets between printers and dyers, to the advantage of both branches in the farther perfecting of grounds, and giving a firmness with a clearness to colours. These improvements soon left the *London* printers nothing to rival us with but the light airy patterns, upon which we are making a considerable progress, with the advantage of darkening what is deficient, or penciling and grounding them afresh, as best suits the pattern; add to this, the large capitals employed to secure these improvements: as a proof of which the duties may be referred to, one single house concerned in printing, having paid 26000 pounds duty in a year, as it is generally reported.

The acquisition of this last branch, with
large

large exports in foreign trade, have given such employment to large capitals, that the interior business of the country is, in a great measure, given up to the middle class of manufacturers and petty chapmen: but no exertion of the manufacturers or workmen could have answered the demands of trade, without the introduction of spinning machines.

These were first used by the country people on a confined scale, twelve spindles being thought a great affair at first, and the awkward posture required to spin on them, was discouraging to grown up people, while they saw with a degree of surprize, children, from nine to twelve years of age, manage them with dexterity, which brought plenty into families, that were before overburthened with children, and delivered many a poor endeavouring weaver out of bondage to which they were exposed, by the insolence of spinners, and abatement of their work, for which evils there was no remedy till spinning-jennies were invented. The following state of their case, will give our readers an idea of the oppression.

From the time that the original system was changed in the fustian branch, of buying pieces in the grey from the weavers, by delivering them out work, the custom of giving them out west in the cops, which obtained for a while, grew into disuse, as there was no detecting the knavery of spinners till a piece came in woven; so that the practice was changed, and wool given with warps, the weaver answering for spinning; and the weavers, in a scarcity of spinning, have been paid less for the west than they gave the spinner, but durst not complain, much less abate the spinner, lest their looms should stand unemployed: but when jennies were introduced, and children could work on them, the case was altered, and many who had been insolent before, were glad to be employed in carding and flubbing cotton for these engines.

The plenty of west produced by this means gave uneasiness to the country people, and the weavers were afraid lest the manufacturers should demand finer west woven at the former prices, which occasioned some risings, and the jennies were opposed, some being demolished before those who used them could be protected,

ted, or convince others of their general utility, till *Dorning Rasbotham*, Esq; a worthy magistrate who lived in that part of the country, towards *Bolton*, where they were used, convinced the weavers, in a sensible printed address, that it was their true interest to encourage jennies, urging the former insolence of spinners, and the happiness of such as had already relieved themselves, and procured employment for their children; and appealed to their own experience of the fly shuttle, against which the like clamour had been raised, and the inventor driven to *France*, where he found encouragement, while his shuttles are yet in such estimation here, as to be used generally even on narrow goods, to the benefit of trade in general, without any bad consequence in the experience of several years, but they are rather of particular benefit to the weavers.

This reasonable address produced a general acquiescence in the use of these engines, to a certain number of spindles, but they were soon multiplied to three or four times the quantity; nor did the invention of ingenious mechanics rest here, for the demand of twist

for warps was greater as weft grew plenty, therefore engines were soon constructed for this purpose: one in particular was purchased at a price which was a considerable reward for the contriver's ingenuity, and exposed at the Exchange, where he spun on it, and all that were disposed to see the operation, were admitted gratis.

The improvements kept increasing till the capital engines for twist were perfected; and it is amazing to see what thousands of spindles may be put in motion by a water wheel, and managed mostly by children, without confusion, and with less waste of cotton than the former methods: but the carding and flubbing, preparatory to twisting, required a greater range of invention than the twisting engines, and there were sufficient motives to encourage the attempt; for while carding was performed by common cards, and flubbing by the hand, these operations took half the price of spinning.

The first attempts were in carding engines, which are very curious, and now brought to great perfection, though they are still improving; and an engine has now been contrived,

trived, for converting the carded wool to flubbing, by drawing it to about the thickness of candle-wick, preparatory to throwing it into twist.

We suppose, and even wish that the principle of this last engine may be applied to reduce combed sheeps wool to a flubbing, for the purpose of spinning it upon the more complex machines, which would be a great acquisition to some branches of trade here. It is already spun on the common flax wheel with a fly (which has been adopted by these engines) the length way of the combing, which is capable of being handled and divided at pleasure, and may be prepared as a flubbing for the spinning machines, by any contrivance in the drawing out, which has a respect to the length of staple and cohesion of parts, wherein combed wool differs from carded cotton.

When the larger machines were first set to work by water, they produced such excellent twill for warps, that they soon outrivalled the makers of warps on the larger jennies, some of whom had several at work, and had reaped a good harvest of profit by them; but

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as the larger machines were encouraged, they suffered abatement in proportion; and one of them concerned, making his complaint to others when they were intoxicated at the ale-house, a resolution was taken to destroy the water machines, and some were demolished before the owners could be protected, or the deluded country people who joined them could reflect, that if more warps were made, there would be a greater demand for twist from their jennies, and a better price for it; which has been fully experienced in the introduction of muslins, for no contrivance in the other machines can make the thread hold when it is so slack thrown as to suit for twist, nor can it be supposed the attempt would be made, if possible, as the demand of twist for warps will fully employ them; for if cotton comes down to a reasonable price, the warps made of this twist would be as cheap as those made of yarn, and keep the money here which was sent abroad for that article, there being no comparison between yarn and cotton warps for goodness, and the advantages in that case would be greater to the workmen, the manufacturers, and the consumer,

farmer, as well as to the general interest of the kingdom.

We had given in our manuscript a particular description of the principles and movements of these machines; but have suppressed it for the present, as it has been hinted that this publication might be translated into *French*, and communicated to our rivals in trade; which is giving a consequence we little expected to our description of *Manchester*, and history of its manufactures.

We are now hastening to a conclusion, and shall observe by the way, that perhaps nothing has more contributed to the improvements in trade here, than the free admission of workmen in every branch, whereby the trade has been kept open to strangers of every description, who contribute to its improvement by their ingenuity; for *Manchester* being only a market town, governed by Constables, is not subject to such regulations as are made in corporations, to favour freemen in exclusion of strangers: and, indeed, nothing could be more fatal to its trading interest, if it should be incorporated, and have representatives in
Parliament.

Parliament. For such is the general course of popular contests, that in places where the immediate dependence of the inhabitants is not upon trade, the health and morals of the people are ruined upon those occasions. How much more fatal would the effects be in such a town as this, where, to the above evils, there would be added the interruption of trade, and perpetuation of ill-will between masters and workmen, who were independent; while those who had nothing to depend on but labour, would contract habits of idleness and drunkenness, or fly to other places, where they could be free from the tyrannical restrictions and partial usage which generally prevail in corporations.

T H E E N D.



